

The Fort Wayne Radio Club
P O Box 15127
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

To:



HAMSPLATTER

**Fort Wayne Radio Club
Fort Wayne, Indiana**

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name _____ Call _____ Class: N T G A AE

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster Y N?

Are you presently an ARRL member Y N?

Membership Term: (Jan - Dec) (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership: \$21.00yr \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership: \$6.00yr \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership: \$15.00yr \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number _____ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

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August 1997

Volume XXVI Issue 8

Jim's Journal

Volume VII



Greetings,

Sometimes the obvious isn't always... As I recall there was an ad in the back of June and July Hamsplatter for a tri band antenna, tower, and rotator for \$100.00. Seems like an obvious good deal to me, one of those kind you could lose friends over. So why has no one bought it? Does everyone who reads the Hamsplatter already have one? Are the covenants and other regulations making it too difficult to put up an antenna system? Are Hams getting tired of all the crazy's down on the low bands? Do most Hams want to own brand-new only? Are most of the new Hams so wrapped up in the Internet and f.m. that they aren't interested? Is \$100.00 still too much? I think being a Ham myself for forty some years has made me curious why we Hams do what we do. Do we do things any better, I don't know, but I think we all let our Wives or Girlfriends dress us a little better now so we don't stand out in a crowd as much!

The meeting for July was a standout, partly because of the subject, but mostly due to the very knowledgeable and personable speaker by the name of Mark Shank. Mark is a technician for GTE Cellular operations in the Ft. Wayne area. His presentation left everyone

well informed and earned him two ovations. My dual band walkie is pretty cool but his Star Tech Cell Phone left me a little envious. I think everyone also enjoyed the chocolate chip cheesecake served up at the meeting. The meeting for August should be a home run too. I hope to get some one from A+ Computers to give us a presentation on maintaining our Personal computers, and what's new and what's cool.

I hope by the time you are reading this our latest round of improvements will be heard. We have got approval from our members to purchase a new controller to go with a different repeater for the 146.94 machine. It seems Scott, the keeper of the '94 repeater was spending about as much time there as he was at home trying to keep the old repeater on the air.

Next Meeting:
Friday
August 15, 1997
7:30 PM
The Good Shepherd
United Methodist
Church.

Well this month's bit of wit I was guilty of practicing last month, just ask Todd our editor. "There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation."

73's
Jim.

Subject: The Rest of the Story

As you have read in my column "Jim's Journal" I was curious why a very good deal for a tower, rotor, and tower was unsold after being in the Ham splatter for two months. I was informed by Dean Whitesel that in fact someone actually did snap up the deal. The reason it went unsold for awhile is that the tower had to be taken down. Fair enough, with all the lawsuits and other problems one might encounter I suppose that's a pretty good reason nowadays. The other part of the story is that the person who got the stuff only wanted the rotor. So there might be a rest of the rest of the story coming up. If your interested in the tower or antenna contact Dean, he can supply the details.



July Minutes

1. The July meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United

Methodist Church on 18 July 1997. There were about 25 people present. The meeting was hosted by President Jim Pliett.

2. The June minutes were read and there were no corrections.

Fort Wayne
Radio Club

Since 1920

The HAMSPLATTER is published monthly by the Fort Wayne Radio Club, PO Box 15127 Fort Wayne, IN, 46885

Todd Hargis, N9XRG Editor, 492-2138 Jim Pliett, K9OMA President; Bill Stockslager, KF2BF, Vice President; Al Burke, WB9SSE, Secretary 637-1989; Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, Treasurer 485-4012; Larry Burke, N9HVP, Communications Manager

3. Treasured Carl Rittenhouse reported that as of 18 July, 1997 the Club's General account held a balance of \$5486.83, the Hamfest account held a balance of \$500.00, and the Repeater account held a balance of \$2354.44.

4. The last Foxhunt featured KB9DOP and N9KKG as the prey. Your scribe did not hear where they hid out, but as usual, it did them no good as they were found by N9GK and KB9NRA in about 47 minutes quickly followed by N9's NRO & LOV (56 minutes), and N9's AVR & MKB (59 minutes). Jim Pliett reported that the current Foxhunt leaders were still N9MKB and N9AVR.

5. Bill Hall gave a preliminary report on our Field Day performance. We had three HF stations accumulating a total of 609 contacts, a six-meter station with 24 contacts, and a two-meter station gathering in 48 contacts. All told, the club should have earned about 1962 points in the contest, which is comparable to our performance in past years.

6. Jim Pliett gave a Repeater update report to include the following data; the .76 machine was healthy, as was the ATV machine. Jim reported that the ATV remote control Sky Camera positioning system upgrade had been completed and the system was performing well. The 400 MHz machine was still down, but Jim expected to be able to accomplish maintenance on the machine during the next week. The .34 machine's hardware had seen it's day. However, the Club had previously agreed to the purchase of replacement RF subsystems for our repeater inventory, and the club acquired three R/T's in excellent condition. But to complete the upgrade of the .94 machine, acquisition of a new Controller and Autopatch subsystem would be necessary. It was estimated that a new Controller and Autopatch subsystem would cost no more than

\$700.00. Consequently a motion to authorize up to \$700.00 to be expended for the purchase of a new Controller and Autopatch subsystem was made and seconded. The motion was subsequently voted in the affirmative by the members present. Hence, a new Controller and Autopatch subsystem will be acquired (subject to the \$700.00 limit) and installed in the .94 machine along with the new R/T hardware.

7. Once again the 50-50 Club was in business. A total of \$35.00 was collected, so the kitty amounted to \$17.50 with the other half going to the club treasury. In addition, much coveted cheesecake and two tickets to the Porter County (Michigan) Hamfest were made available to those who participated in the affair. The winners were as follows:

The fifty/fifty split was won by Scott, N9VZJ. Carl, N9NRO won the cheesecake, while Scott, N9VZJ (yes. Scott again!) won the two tickets to the Porter County Hamfest.

8. Jim Pliett announced that Annie Pliett had suggested using Pembelton Electronics' parking lot for the FWRC Tailgate Hamfest, which we would like to run in September. While chagrined that "none of us men-folk had thought of it", Jim allowed that he would pursue the idea with Pembelton.

9. Following the business meeting, Jim handed the floor over to Mark Shank of GTE who provided us with an informative discussion of GTE's Cellular Telephone System.

Respectively submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE



Pet Ham Care and Feeding

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise. Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics:

Living Area -- A pet ham needs a private nest area, an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures -- boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, plastic, paper, etc., that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter and the boring of holes in walls.

Expenses -- Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most pets, a pet ham can be trained to work outside the home for a few hours each day. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding -- A well-behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasionally, but it usually will feel more comfortable and secure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is

well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

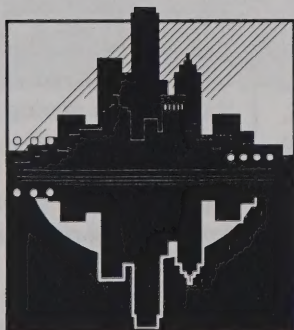
Obedience Training -- A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being "sit" and "speak." Do not be alarmed if it practices them for hours at a time in its nest room.

Health problems -- The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain and minor throat irritations from too much sitting and speaking, but health maintenance costs tend to be minimal.

Travel -- Your pet ham will gladly travel with your family by car or even by air, if allowed to bring along certain familiar items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families.

Breeding -- If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection. -- (Fort Herkimer (NY) Amateur Radio Club

FHARC News)



BULLETIN MANAGER RETURNS

July 31, 1997

I was out of the Hoosier state in early July and finally seen the errors of my ways and will be getting settled down back on the home front. I certainly missed attending the Hamfest in Indianapolis this year and meeting all of my amateur friends. It just turned out that my fishing and adventure trip to Cass Lake, Minnesota was previously scheduled. Hopefully in 1998 we can link up with our state events more closely.

I had established some contact while in Minnesota and learned that for the area we were in has repeaters linked from Wisconsin across Minnesota and on into the Dakota country. I had contact with numerous hams in the Bemidji area, which is in the north central part of that state.

It seems no matter where one travels severe weather can be a problem and this trip proved that point. I did not hear of any tornado activity in our immediate area but warnings were published further south. When I departed the northern part of Minnesota and traveled due south toward the Twin Cities there was a widespread evidence of wind

damage. Trees in particular were damaged, broken or uprooted over a wide area, pine trees were laying over along the main highway and numerous other trees were snapped off high about the ground. In one place the downed trees appeared to be so numerous that a large field visible from the highway was set up to receive the damaged debris so that streets and roads could be cleared for traffic.

I think a couple of the best travel sites we seen on this trip was the Rabideau CCC camp and the "Lost Forty". The old Civilian Conservation Corps camp established in the 1930's was well preserved with little caretaker status. The events, buildings and history of the camp are well documented on the site. The so-called "Lost Forty" is virgin timberland that was never cut by the loggers due to an error in the original survey. The pine tree stand here is awesome with 350 plus year old pines towering about the forest grounds. Eagles nest and roost in these trees with the first limbs appearing to be nearly 100 feet above the ground. This ground is now set aside as a landmark.

Yes, we did have all the Walleye fish we could eat and managed to bring some home. I hope that you are looking forward to receiving the regular INARRL bulletins again.

I would like to hear what has been going on in your part of the state. How about it, anyone got anything to report recent hamfests?

Packet =

KA9QWC@KF9UG.#NIN.IN.USA.N
OAM

EMAIL
don39@centralnet.net



INARRL BULLETIN 59-97

SETI LEAGUE

July 31, 1997

The ARRL previously reported in their newsletter information about this Hoosier ham. It is being included here to provide the background on from the original story.

SETI League honors Indiana ham: The SETI League has honored Daniel Boyd Fox, KF9ET, of Bloomington, Indiana, KF9ET, of Bloomington, Indiana, by presenting him with the second annual Bruno Memorial Award for significant technical contributions to the SETI League's Project Argus search for intelligent radio signals from elsewhere in the universe. The Bruno Award honors the memory of Giordano Bruno, an Italian monk who was burned at the stake in 1600 for daring to contemplate the existence of other inhabited planets. Fox has developed a basic radio telescope block diagram that's been duplicated by dozens of other experimenters and built one of the first amateur listening stations. In December, the SETI League reports, he received "an interesting (though unconfirmed) candidate signal"--among the first detected in the SETI LeagueSetiFox computer program is widely used by project participants. -- SETI League

Now the question is, have any of you Indiana hams had personal contacts with KF9ET? If so how about funneling some information up this way so we can get more information and remain up to date. There is a lot going on here in Indiana, but we need your help to find out who is doing it!



INARRL 60-97

INDIANA QSO PARTY

July 31, 1997

Yes fellow amateur radio operators, it is finally here a real Indiana QSO party! How many years and times did one ever wonder why Indiana did not have a QSO party after working all those other states when they had their event.

Well wonder no more as this QSO party promises to have a lot in the makings with the goal of getting all 92 counties worked with the offerings of a Special achievement award during this event.

It is too good to just call this a QSO party alone, it is being dubbed as a Bison Stampede to celebrate the 50th year of the Indiana Radio Club Council, INC. Again the goal is to get all 92 counties on the air during the QSO party.

It will begin at 1800Z on August 2 to 0200Z on August 3, 1997. All amateur bands, 1.8 MHz to 446 MHz, excluding 30, 17 and 12 meters. No repeater or cross band QSO's. Indiana stations exchange call and county, others

exchange call and state/province/DXCC country. Count 1 pt QSO on phone, 2 pts QSO on CW, Indiana stations can be worked once per band/mode/county. All parties that embark with a mobile must use the mobile's call sign exclusively for the duration of the QSO party.

Contacts with/by mobile stations operating from more than one county will count both as a new county multiplier and QSO. Mobiles cannot operate from more than one county at a time. Indiana mobile logs should indicate each county they operate from and QSO's made from that county. All logs must include time, date, and band mode and exchange.

Indiana stations multiply QSO total by the sum of Indiana counties, states, VE provinces plus a max of 5 DXCC countries worked. Count additional DX for QSO points but not multipliers. Indiana mobiles may add 100 points for each county they operated from, that at least 5 QSO's were made. All others multiply QSO's by Indiana counties.

All stations will receive 100 bonus points for working the Indiana special event station, WB9IND during the QSO party. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Radio Club Council Inc, WB9IND, 1800Z Aug 2 to 0200Z Aug 3, 50th Anniversary of the Indiana Radio Club Council. 3.890 7.290 14.290 146.52. QSL. IRCC Bison Stampede, Box 18495, Indianapolis, IN 46218.

Awards: high scoring DX station, high scoring US station (except Indiana), high scoring fixed and mobile Indiana stations, high scoring Indiana fixed and mobile stations operating on frequencies 50 MHz and above. High scoring Indiana mobile that operated from the most counties, with the highest number of QSO's.

There are two operating classes for Indiana stations: Fixed and mobile. Mobile is defined as a station that operates from more than one location

during The QSO party. Awards will be given in both classes.

A special achievement award will be given to stations working all 92 Indiana counties during the Stampede.

Suggested frequencies: CW --3.55 MHz, 7.05 MHz, 14.05 MHz, 28.12 MHz;

Phone -- 3.89 MHz, 7.29 MHz, 14.29 MHz, 28.39 MHz, 50.129 MHz, 144.2 MHz, 146.52 MHz, 223.5 MHz and 446.0 MHz.

Within 30 days after the Bison Stampede, send your entry to: IRCC
Bison Stampede, POB 18495,
Indianapolis, IN 46218.

A certificate commemorating the Bison Stampede is available to anyone submitting an entry with 25 QSO's with Indiana Stations and a 9 by 12 inch Self-addressed, stamped-envelope (SASE) with your entry.

Sponsored by the Indiana Radio Club Council, For more information contact:
Jim Rinehart, K9RU



ANTENNA RAISING INCIDENT

"I'm writing in response to your request for additional information for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause for my accident. Your letter requested more detailed information and I trust the following will be sufficient."

"I'm an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower."

"Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form, I weigh only 155 pounds."

"Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down; this explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley."

"Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of the pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I started a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up; this accounts for my two fractured ankles and the lacerations on my legs and lower body."

"The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools, and fortunately only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I'm sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind...I let go of the rope."

Editor's Notes

Since taking over the editorship of the "Hamsplatter" I have learned a great deal about what makes a club function, and function well. In a nutshell the first and foremost thing which I have seen in successful organizations it that there has to be a certain level of involvement by a majority of the membership. When a small group of people do the most of the tasks, the end result is that the interests of the majority may not be well represented. America itself was founded on a strong base of volunteerism. I have only been a member of The Fort Wayne Radio Club for the past five years. I want to see the club prosper in the years to come. Our only hope for this lie in people getting involved and wanting to make a difference in *their* radio club.

On a lighter note I wish to personally thank Ted Clifton for his "Old Tyme Chatter" articles which he wrote faithfully for the past few years. They were very informative and entertaining, especially for the members who would have no memory of those by gone days. Once again thank you Ted.

Finally I would like to make an appeal for articles for The Hamsplatter. The more articles I can get will result in a broader newsletter which will appeal to the whole membership.

Please send via e-mail at hargis@mail.org or to the club PO Box.

For Sale

- Cherokee AH-50 HT 5 watt with mobile adapter. \$235.00
- Please call Jim KB9NKL at 622-6608 evenings only.


- Autek SWR/POWER meter HF. \$50.00
- Astron DC power supply 35 amp peak. \$100.00
- Alinco Dual Speed Rotor with control \$50.00
- Please Call Dick Erwin N9BNA at 744-9551 Evenings or 745-0825 Days

Wanted

- 35-Foot aluminum tower. Contact Carl Rittenhouse (N9NRO) at 485-4012.

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month.

Thanks and 73s,
Todd Hargis N9XRG




Attention

We are currently trying to compile a database of the e-mail addresses of members. This database will be used possibly in the future to distribute the Hamsplatter and thus lower the total operating costs of the club. Please send an e-mail message to hargis@mail.org and put Hamsplatter in the subject line.

Thanks in advance for the help. We are trying to currently find ways to reduce costs so we can maintain the activities, which we currently enjoy.

73s,
N9XRG

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "hargis@mail.org".



September Hamsplatter Deadline: *September 1, 1997*

Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name _____ Call _____ Class: N T G A AE

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ - _____

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